



NJDOT NEWS



For Immediate Release:
September 19, 2023

Contact: Jim Barry
Elizabeth Rose Galamba
609-963-1975

NJDOT announces the winners of the 2023 New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program Improving walking and biking routes is vital to public health and safety

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), in coordination with the New Jersey Safe Routes Resource Center at Rutgers University, and the eight Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) in New Jersey, announced the 2023 New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program winners.

The Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) is a nationwide initiative supported by NJDOT and DOTs across the country that empowers schools and communities through projects, programs, and events to create safer environments for people to walk, bike, or travel by other wheeled devices.

"NJDOT's Safe Routes to School program focuses on improvements to enable and encourage students to walk and bike to school, where it is safe to do so, to promote healthy, active lifestyles," Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "This program, which expanded to high schools this year, improves safety for everyone, especially our children, helping fulfill NJDOT's commitment to provide an equitable transportation system throughout the State."

The New Jersey SRTS program focuses on infrastructure improvements and educational campaigns that promote the benefits of active lifestyles. The New Jersey Safe Routes Resource Center recognizes select municipalities and schools (public, private, and charter) with one of four award levels for their commitment to the Safe Routes to School program. The recognition levels are First Step, Bronze, Silver or Gold, based upon their achievements. To view a list of all current winners, please go to: <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/current-safe-routes-to-school-recognition-program-winners/>

"The Safe Routes to School program is a federal, state, and local effort that creates safer and more appealing conditions for walking, bicycling, and using other wheeled active transportation devices as a healthy part of everyday life," NJDOT's Safe Routes to School Coordinator William Riviere said.

Regional SRTS Coordinators from the TMAs recognize the achievements of the 2023 winners at events within their service areas. This year's award recipients advanced their SRTS programs with hard work and commitment to expand walking and biking opportunities in their communities.

"Although the New Jersey SRTS program is run statewide, each TMA promotes it locally and takes the lead in honoring winning schools and municipalities and thanking them for helping to prioritize safe walking and bicycling," said Tara Shepherd, Executive Director of goHunterdon TMA and Chair of the TMA Council of New Jersey.

The communities that participate in SRTS programs often benefit from less traffic congestion, better air quality, fewer traffic conflicts near schools, and most importantly, safer, healthier and more active children, according to the New Jersey Safe Routes Resource Center.

To learn more about NJDOT's Safe Routes to School program, find your TMA SRTS Coordinator, and discover how your school or municipality can make your community more walkable and bikeable, please visit www.saferoutesnj.org.

For NJDOT news, follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) and on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#).

###